

California Environmental Education Interagency Network (CEEIN)

Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 18, 2002

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (host)

Members in Attendance:

Kay Antunez, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Tricia Broddrick, CA-EPA, Office of Integrated Education
Vanessa Byrd, Department of Toxics Substances Control
Jamie Cameron-Harley, CALFED
Nita Davidson, Department of Pesticide Regulation
Annie Kohut Frankel, California Coastal Commission
Sylvia Gude, Department of Fish and Game
Michael Kashuba, California Air Resources Board
Susan Knadle, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
Lisa Kunz, Department of Toxics Substances Control
Deake Marschall, Department of Conservation
Tom Mays, State Water Resources Control Board
Shelly McGill, State and Consumer Services Agency
Brian Miller, Resources Agency
Donna Pozzi, California State Parks
Richard Rodriguez, California Conservation Corps
Holly Sheradin, State Water Resources Control Board
Nadia Shifa (for Vanessa Arellano), Department of Food and Agriculture
Carolyn Tucker, Department of Water Resources
Joanne Vorhies, Integrated Waste Management Board
Tracie Walker, California Conservation Corps

Guest

Jenny Rigby, The Acorn Group

What's New in Your World?

Note: Carri Benefield-Pirosko (her new married name) has taken a position with CDFA in northern California. She can be reached at (530) 224-2425 or cbenefield@cdfa.ca.gov

Vanessa Arellano, Food and Agriculture – (presented by Nadia Shifa) Vanessa has a new assignment working with the Pierce's Disease Control Program.. She has moved from the main CDFA building to the 2014 Capitol Avenue, Suite 109, Sacramento.

Kay Antunez, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection – is continuing to develop a series of thematic Project Learning Tree workshops to also introduce the new CD-rom "Burning Issues". The recent revision of PLT includes an updated version of all the energy education activities. Additional materials for energy education are also available from PLT – these include a music CD developed by the children's musician Billy B. who will be performing at the Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair in March. During 2001, the Project Learning Tree program was offered to ~3200 educators statewide.

Annie Kohut Frankel, CA Coastal Commission – In December, CCC launched its on-line, statewide "Marine, Coastal and Watershed Resources Directory". It can be accessed from www.coastal.ca.gov and includes links to over 300 organizations working on marine, coastal and watershed issues in CA. The Directory includes information on educational programs and volunteer and internship opportunities and will be regularly updated and expanded in order to remain current.

The Whale Tale Grant applications are being evaluated and the Commission in Feb will approve grantees. 110 proposals were received this year, requesting almost \$2.2 million. \$208,500 is available for distribution in grants of up to \$50,000 each. All of the grant money comes from the Whale Tale license plate.

CCC is moving forward on completing all of the American Trader Oil Spill funded projects. We have hired a program coordinator named Kristina Finstad for the Upper Newport Bay Restoration Education Project, who will start work next month. We are coordinating with Orange County and the Ocean Institute to create tide pool etiquette signage. Research is on going to purchase beach wheelchairs and beach access maps for Orange County beaches.

Sylvia Gude, Department of Fish and Game - Partnered with DFG's regional staff to provide educational material for the mobile aquarium at the International Sportsmen Expo at Sacramento. This exhibit will also be at other Expo locations in northern California. Also working with other CEEIN members at the California Association for Bilingual Education Conference, and partnering with PLT & WET at several future EE events.

Developing a web site and also converting the database of Project WILD-trained educators to Microsoft Access. The new database will enable staff to record more information, access information easier and generate more meaningful reports.

Provided Coastal Commission educational consultant with copies of selected Project WILD activities for possible inclusion in their new watershed curriculum.

Developed a Project WILD article for DFG's Outdoor California magazine, which has a circulation of 22,000. This will be a regular feature in future editions of the magazine.

Mike Kashuba, Air Board – We have entered into a \$50,000 partnership with the GLOBE program. It is in the developmental stage but will likely involve the daily measurement of aerosols (sun photometer) and ground level ozone (ozone patches). We are looking for 60 middle schools/high schools in 3-4 air basins. Data will be compared with satellite data and should result in a published scientific paper authored jointly by the principal investigator and the students.

Susan Knadle, OEHHA – The Health and Safety code 901(f) and (g) occupies most of my time. This past year we compiled a large list of chemicals that are potentially found at school sites that children may be more sensitive to than adults – as the standards for safe exposures are based only on adults. Our report is being reviewed and will be placed on the OEHHA website for public comment.

This year a new phase is to identify 10-15 chemicals for an in-depth literature review in order to determine if there were 5 chemicals for which there is sufficient data to set a child specific reference dose exposure level that would be safe for children.

Lisa Kunz, DTSC - We have an approved contract with CSU, Chico and now look forward to developing EE materials such as the Hazardous House Computer Game.

Deake Marschall, Department of Conservation – We will be starting our spring semester Recycle Rex School Assembly program next week in Stanislaus County. Other counties scheduled for this spring include Tulare, Riverside, San Bernardino, Imperial and San Diego.

Keep California Beautiful (KCB) in cooperation with the Department of Conservation has produced recycling-theme book covers featuring skateboard legend Tony Hawk. KCB has a large supply of the covers available to any department/agency willing to distribute them to middle and high school students. A Tony Hawk poster is also in the works. To request the covers, contact KCB at 858-505-9936 or email: marlenekcb@aol.com

Tom Mays, State Water Resources Control Board - Received clearance from the State and Regional Water Board management on proceeding with the board's new statewide education and outreach program. Tom and Holly plan to visit all 12 regional and satellite offices in the state over the next five months to help promote the new program, and to enlist volunteers. Staff will be used to visit schools and demonstrate the watershed model, attend conferences and fairs and provide speeches. Regional education coordinators will also be recruited from each office to track local efforts and to generate new outreach opportunities. These coordinators will work with the CREEC coordinators in their respective areas.

Holly Sheradin, the State Water Board's new citizen monitoring leader, was introduced to the CEEIN network. The former DWR environmental educator plans to hold a Project WET Workshop in Yolo County in late January. Holly will be assisting the state and regional water boards in citizen monitoring, TMDL activities and K-12 education program development and implementation.

Coordinating with DWR on preparation of a watershed video, which can be used by both offices to promote water conservation and pollution prevention.

Shelly McGill, State and Consumers Affairs – We have contact with the California Arts Council to support a mini-grant program up to \$6000 for an energy art program in schools. We are funding the "Keystone Club" energy program through the Girls and Boys Clubs. Currently the Teacher Energy Education Grants (up to \$3000) and Innovative Energy Grants (up to \$200,000) programs on-going; grants being reviewed and funded.

Donna Pozzi, State Parks - "PORTS" – "Parks On-line Resources for Teachers and Students" proposal developed, which includes live interactive school presentations, is currently in the fund-raising stage. We are developing a web presence on the Department's Website for our Division (Interpretation and Education) with information about parks programs and resources. The Junior Ranger program is looking for funding to be updated and expanded.

Richard Rodriguez, CCC – Recently attended a quarterly meeting of the CA Biodiversity Council and is chairing a committee that is redesigning a major project for the CCC that will hopefully contain a stronger component for environmental education. Also continuing site visits for Park Bond projects.

Carolyn Tucker, Water Resources – DWR is cosponsoring Creek Week (4/20) and the GET WET (6/1) events this year by contributing the Passport stamp books for children, and printing brochures. We will have the exhibits at these events and the Girl Scout 90th Celebration, (4/6) and Splash Event 9/30. We are looking to CEEIN members for any give away items that can be contributed to a child's grab bag for the Creek Week event.

DWR is beginning layout of a teacher's guide & student sticker passport book for the Romero Visitors Center at the San Luis Reservoir and developing the layout for the State EE Plan.

DWR and the SWRCB will be collaborating on a watershed video for children. We are looking for others interested in partnering on this project.

Joanne Vorhies, IWMB – shared a new calendar designed for third grade students. The poster has a lesson on composting and advertises the interactive website on Vermicomposting.

Tracie Walker, CCC - is introducing "work-based learning" back into the CCC. They have an on-going revision process of the Corps' Conservation Awareness Program for corps members. Also looking for an AGPA for the Used Oil Recycling Program.

Approval of November Minutes

The November 2001 minutes were sent electronically. Approved as stand.

Information Items

- ✓ Revised list of members was sent electronically. Contact Sylvia Gude at sgude@dfg.ca.gov for additional copies.
- ✓ A current list (as of January 2002) of fairs and events for educators was passed out. This list is available at the CEEIN website hosted by OHHEA...<http://www.oehha.ca.gov/ceein>

Update on SB 373

Trish Broddrick and Jenny Rigby described the current direction that the Office of Integrated Education is taking to launch SB 373. A survey of educators, a random sample of 10,000 K-6 and 10,000 7-12 educators selected from the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS), will be assess their input on EE professional development needs. CEEIN members expressed an interest in reviewing the one-page survey prior to its release. The draft will be forwarded electronically to all CEEIN members.

Committee Updates

Administration and Budget: no report

Electronic Networking: no report

EE Advancement and Development:

Kay reported that projects connected to the \$25,000 grant California received from the US-EPA via the University of Wisconsin's EE Advancement Project are underway. An environmental education booth, thanks to Carolyn Tucker and DWR, will be set up at the annual conference of the California Bilingual Education Association conference to be held January 31 to February 3 in San Jose. CEEIN members are invited to help exhibit EE information and opportunities. Carolyn (DWR) and Sylvia (DFG) plan to attend. The Coastal Commission and Project Learning Tree (CDF) will have separate booths.

The Golden State EE Consortium is managing the work plan of this grant and is currently looking for a project manager.

Jenny Rigby spoke about the Natural and Human Communities Compendium project. Twenty-four teachers reviewed and scored 116 different curricula that fit within the rubric of this compendium. She commented that the successful "fit" of many of the curricula was determined by how well it addresses both the human and natural communities. The analysis will be available soon. Kay noted that Phaedra Bota has offered an additional \$10K to help with the development of the searchable database for this compendium. Bill Andrews is working with WestEd to see if it will be possible to add the compendium information into the current CREEC searchable database.

Jenny also spoke briefly about the current status of the State Plan for EE. Final comments on the current draft will be incorporated by the end of January. The CREEC network will be instrumental in launching the plan in April.

Environmentality: No report. Trish did note that the judging will probably take place on March 19 or 20, the announcement made on March 22 and the celebration will take place on May 9th.

Outreach: Kay reviewed the list of "fairs and events" and highlighted several conferences and fairs that would be of interest to CEEIN members including the up-coming California Association for Bilingual Education conference (see above).

Presentation

Kay presented Carlos Garcia, CDF Student Assistant who helped her demonstrate the new CD-rom "Burning Issues" which will be incorporated into at least ten Project Learning Tree workshops during the next six months. She received a grant from the Bureau of Land Management to implement this new program and plans to train at least 300 educators.

Next Meeting

Tom Mays offered to host the February 15, 2002 CEEIN meeting at the CA-EPA building. A complete list of the CEEIN meeting dates is included in these minutes as a separate attachment and will be listed on the CEEIN website hosted by OEHHA.